

The effect of the National Plan (2010–2020) on the development of vocational education in China: An evidence from a before-after design at a 7-year interval and policy analysis

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Abstract. Recent reports by the Ministry of Education in China on the progress of vocational education showed that the realisation of the National Plan is stepping forward. However, our reviewed studies of conducted research in English did not show any study examining the effect of the National Plan and/or the realisation of the objectives set on such policy documents. That said, we conducted a before-after design study at a 7-year interval using six indicators of vocational education and policy document analysis. The census bureau data which was retrieved from the National Bureau of Statistics of China included six indicators of total vocational: school, total enrolment, new enrolment, graduates, educational personnel and full-time teachers. The results indicates insignificant statistically difference between the pre-intervention and post-intervention intervals. However, several implications were inferred from this outcome. These included: the development was restricted to the quality of vocational education other than the quantity; the output contradicts some objectives set on the National Plan like the expansion of vocational education which can be achieved only quantitatively but the results showed rapid decrease of enrolment in the 2016 as compared to high enrolment in 2010 and the pre-intervention period as well; and the use of different terminology and types of vocational education in the different official websites of China has made the accessibility of the secondary data tedious and fussy.

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